

## Book review

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*Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry*. 8th Edition, *B Boron Compounds, 2nd Supplement Volume 1. Boron and Noble Gases, Hydrogen, Oxygen, Nitrogen. Formula Index for 2nd Suppl. Vol. 1*. By L. Barton, K. Beeker, G. Heller, and A. Meller, volume authors, K. Niedenzu, editor. Gmelin Institut für Anorganische Chemie der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften and Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, 1983, xvi + 508 pages, DM 1566.

This volume of Gmelin is concerned with boron and noble gases, hydrogen, oxygen, or nitrogen. The literature is covered to the end of 1980 and deals with just two years; a companion 1st Supplement Volume 1 brought the bibliography to the end of 1977. The 2nd Supplement Volume 2 was recently reviewed here: it covered compounds with halogens, chalcogens, and carboranes (*J. Organomet. Chem.*, 252 (1983) C16).

There are three major sections dealing with the systems: (1) boron—hydrogen (201 pages, by L. Barton); (2) boron—oxygen (99 pages, by G. Heller); and (3) boron—nitrogen (160 pages, by A. Meller). There is also a three page contribution by K. Beeker on the boron—noble gases system, and a substantial (43 pages) formula index. As is now the practice, the work is in English and is excellently presented.

There is much of interest in the volume to readers of this Journal. For example, in the BH section there are data on compounds such as  $[\text{BHR}_3]^-$ ,  $\text{Bu}^t_2\text{BB}(\text{OMe})\text{Bu}^t$ , and  $2\text{-PhCH}_2\text{B}_5\text{H}_8$ ; in the BO section, among the compounds included are those of formula  $\text{R}_2\text{BOR}'$ ,  $\text{RB}(\text{OR}')_2$ ,  $\text{B}(\text{OR})_3$ , and  $(\text{RBO})_3$ , while in the BN section, molecules such as  $\text{B}(\text{NR}_2)_3$ ,  $(\text{RBNH})_3$ ,  $\text{Me}_2\text{BN}_3$ , and  $\text{Me}_3\text{BNMe}_3$  are discussed.

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